[3rd September 1958

MR. SPEAKER: I was about to say "Out of Order" because there is no reference to "Jana Sakthi". The question is about a dispute in "Dina Thanthi" which has been referred to the Labour Court for adjudication.

SRI S. B. ADITYAN: The hon. Member who put the question is also interested in another paper and so he should not also be permitted to put a question on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Sri Sattanatha Karayalar, are you interested in any paper?

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Certainly not, Sir.

Working Journalists

* 25-J *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Working Journalists employed in the "Thanthi Trust", Madras, alleging reversion of grades and reduction in scales of pay with effect from 1st April 1958; and

(*b*) what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir. A representation from the Madras Union of Journalists was received by the Government on 30th April 1958, complaining that the management of "Daily Thanthi" reduced the wages of their working journalists for the month of March 1958.

(*b*) The Government had a discussion with the parties on 15th May 1958. It was understood that some of the working journalists employed in the "Daily Thanthi" have signed an undertaking agreeing to the re-fixation of their salaries at the mean of the original salary before 1st May 1957 and revised salary fixed with reference to the decisions of the Wage Board for working journalists as from 1st March 1958 and that such of these working journalists who did not sign the undertaking were paid at the same rate as they were getting before 1st May 1957. In the circumstances, it was considered that no interference was called for.

MR. SPEAKER: It is understood that even in Parliament if an hon. Member has any relationship or dealing or any connection with a paper about which a question has been asked, he should not take part in the proceedings on it. I am glad that Sri S. B. Adityan has raised this point in the House. I would, however, like to know whether Sri Adityan has any relationship with the "Dina Thanthi".

SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Sir, I have no financial interest.

MR. SPEAKER: What does the hon. Member mean by that? I rule that Sri S. B. Adityan cannot take part in this question. Sri M. Kalyanasundaram may now speak.

3rd September 1958]

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : ஸார், தினத்தந்தி பத்திரிகையில் மாத்திரம் நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் வேஜ் போர்டு முடிவின்படி சம்பளம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வந்தது என்று அமைச்சர் அவர்களே அதை பாராட்டுகிற சமயத்தில் தெரிவித்தார்கள். அவ்விதம் அமுல் நடத்தி வந்த அந்த இடத்தில் இப்போது முன்னால் கொடுத்ததை திரும்ப வசூலிக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து வருவது அரசாங்கத்திற்கு தெரியுமா ? தெரிந்திருந்தால் அதை தடுக்க அரசாங்கம் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : தினத்தந்தி, ஆனந்த விகடன் இந்த இரண்டு பத்திரிகைகளும் வேஜ் போர்டு முடிவை அமுல் நடத்தினார்கள். ஆகவே கனம் அங்கத்தினர் ஒரு பத்திரிகையில் மாத்திரம்தான் அமுல் நடத்தப்பட்டது என்று சொல்வது சரியல்ல. அதன் பின்னால் வேஜ் போர்டு முடிவு செல்லுபடியாகாது என்று சொன்ன பிறகு தினத்தந்தி வேஜ் போர்டு முடிவுக்கு முன்னால் கொடுத்துவந்த சம்பளத்திற்கும் வேஜ் போர்டு மூலமாக முடிவு செய்த சம்பளத்திற்கும் இடையில் இருக்கக்கூடிய முறையில் ஒரு தொகையை சம்பளமாக கொடுப்பதற்கு முன் வந்தார்கள். அவர்கள் மேலும் சொன்னது, இந்த தொகையை நாங்கள் திரும்பி வசூலிக்கப்போவதில்லை என்றும் சொன்னார்கள். இதைப்பற்றியுள்ள விபரங்கள் இங்கிலீஷில் இருக்கின்றன. அதை வாசிக்கிறேன்.

Sir, may I read a portion in English?

Mr. SPEAKER : You are entitled to answer the whole question in English.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Sri S. B. Adityan stated that his offer of revised wages was fair. He added that though he was asking his employees to sign an undertaking to refund the difference between the revised salary and the enhanced salary paid after the Wage Board decision, he had no intention of recovering it except as a set off in the event of any retrospective operation given to the decision in any settlement or legislation in this behalf. In the circumstances, the Commissioner of Labour was asked to advise the employees on these lines and persuade them to accept the offer of the management.

Sri S. NAGARAJA MONIGAR : ஸார், பிரஸ்தாப பத்திரிகையாலயத்தில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் தீங்கு பச்சை தமிழர்களுக்கா அல்லது வேறு யாருக்கு என்று கேட்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்.

Mr. SPEAKER : இதற்கும் இருக்கும் கேள்விகளுக்கும் சம்பந்தம் இல்லை.

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : The Hon. Minister has stated that some of the working journalists have not signed the agreement. It has been brought to my notice and I think, it has been brought to the notice of the Government also that the benevolent . . .

Sri S. B. ADITYAN : The hon. Member is vitally interested because he is running a rival paper, "Jana Sakthi" in which the salaries are the poorest. He is interested in this question. I would like to know, Sir, how Sri Kalyanasundaram who is equally

interested in the matter can be allowed to take part in this question when the Chair has ruled that any member who has any relationship or interest in a paper cannot take part in this question.

MR. SPEAKER : The right to talk or take part in the discussion is covered by the interest any individual has in a paper. If the hon. Member Sri Adityan, is able to say that Sri M. Kalyanasundaram has interest in the "Dina Thanthi", then I shall prevent him. Sri Kalyanasundaram may have interests elsewhere of which this House may not be aware. The hon. Member, Sri Kalyanasundaram may now speak.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : As the Hon. Minister has stated that some of the working journalists have refused to sign the agreement . . .

MR. SPEAKER : I did not interrupt the Hon. Minister reading because he was replying to the question. If the hon. Member, Sri Kalyanasundaram wants to ask a supplementary question, he cannot read a statement. He has to put a question.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : I was just having the list of questions in my hand.

MR. SPEAKER : It leads to suspicion that the hon. Member is reading it.

12 40 p.m. SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, the Hon. Minister said that some of the working journalists had refused to sign this unfair agreement, which the management demanded. As a consequence of this, I am told that they are being threatened everyday by hiring goondas, and that the goondas are allowed inside the premises of this press. Will the Government take suitable action against the trustees for indulging in such unfair labour practice?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A complaint to that effect has been received, and I have referred it for investigation.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

IV.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of many adjournment motions to-day. The first is from Sri P. U. Shanmugam. In his adjournment motion, he wants to discuss the failure of the State and Central Governments to interfere and come to the rescue of the Tamilians in Ceylon. I would like to know from the Hon. the Leader of the House what responsibility the State Government has in the matter.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, as you should be aware, we are governed by the provisions of the Constitution. The adjournment motion relates to a matter which has taken place in an independent neighbouring State. It is purely within the jurisdiction of the Central Government because it relates to external affairs. Therefore, I do not think this State Government has any responsibility whatsoever.